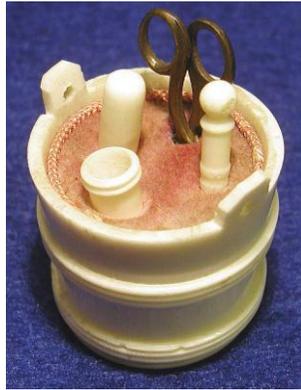




Meißner porcelain 1740



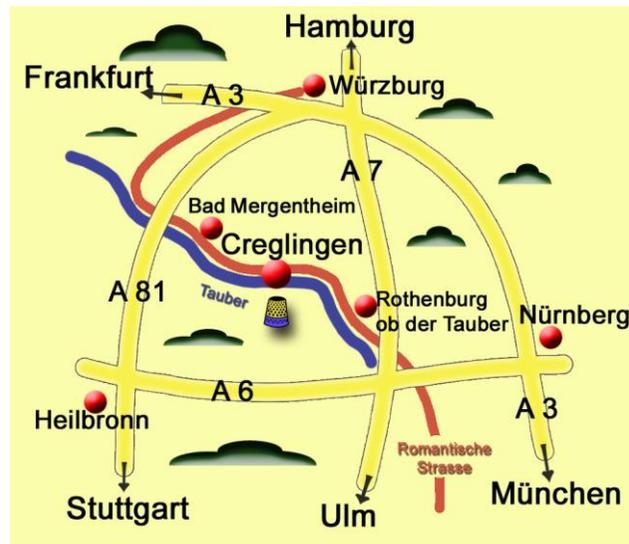
children's sewing kit

Thimbles and sewing tools from all continents, from antiquity to modern times are shown in an expressive way. From simple thimble for daily use to valuable decoration thimbles in manifold forms and different materials, for the viewer an own world is created.

For groups we offer a little introduction in German about the history of thimbles which gives a deep insight from the time of the Neanderthals up to today. Please announce!



Peacock – brazen – Victorian - England



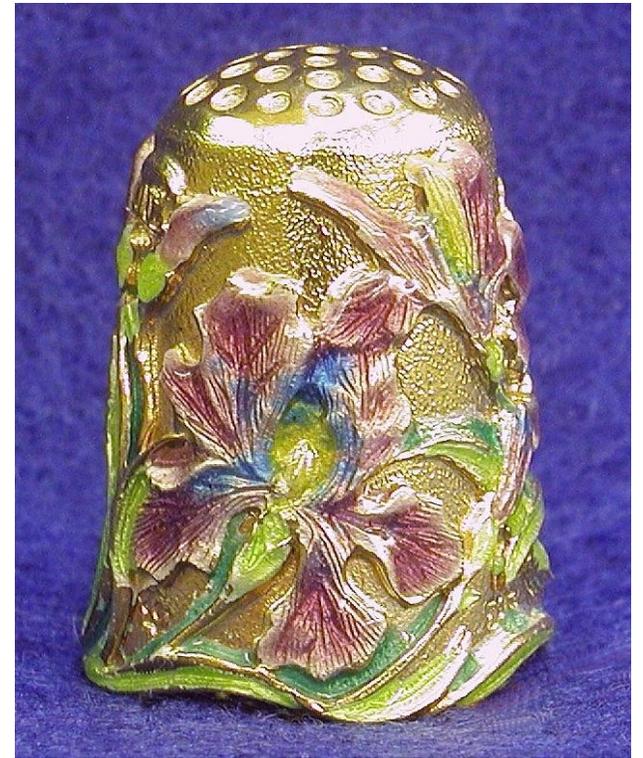
The thimble museum is located 1 km out of Creglingen, opposite the „Herrgottskirche“ with its famous „Riemenschneideraltar“, in the „Lieblichen Taubertal“ between Bad Mergentheim and Rothenburg ob der Tauber – at the „Romantic Road.



Opening hours for the museum:
1. April - 31.October: Tuesday to Sunday
10.00am - 12.30am + 2.00pm - 5.00pm
1. November – 31.March: Tuesday to Sunday
1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
24./25./31.Dec. + 7.Jan. – 28.Feb.: closed
For groups it is also possible to come outside the opening hours by appointment.



Thimble museum Creglingen



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Owner: Brigitte Greif

The thimble museum in Creglingen

Was opened at **8th August** by Thorvald and Brigitte Greif. The foundation for this private museum which is unique in its way, was the inheritance of the Gabler brothers in Schorndorf, which was taken over by Helmut Greif.

Unfortunately a fire destroyed the whole factory, so Helmut Greif intensively dealt with research about the origin of thimbles. This knowledge was the basis for this Museum, which also wants to pay honour to thimble manufacturers, who tried hard and with a lot of sense for forms and subtle inventions to beware women's hands from pinpricks in the past.

Today thimble manufacturing is continued by the Greifs in their goldsmith's shop, where they produce small ranges of collectors thimbles and special design of unique.



Production of Helmut Greif



Production of Thorvald Greif
Front page: golden enamel thimble by family Greif

History of thimbles

In excavations near Moscow bones were found, which were used **30000 years ago** by mammoth hunters to stitch pearl embroideries onto pieces of leather.



10000 years ago

findings of press stones implemental for sewing.



2500 years ago bronze thimbles and needle pushers were used in the Mediterranean area.

As of 100 A.D.: the Romans spread bronze thimbles in part of Europe. **Around 1150:** Holy Hildegard v. Bingen: a thimble as part of her dowry upon her entry into the cloister in mentioned.



Around 1500: first masterpieces in thimble handicraft in Nürnberg. Paracelsus discovers the metal zinc. Because of this there are new brazen products (also thimbles). **As of 1537:** first thimble-makers order. **Around 1568:** Jost Ammann prints a book in which all handicrafts are shown. The thimble-makers with their new manufacturing method are shown in woodcuts. **As of 1628:** thimble mills in Hollands, later foundation of a thimble-makers' trust.



As of 1696: Bernhard v. der Becke from Iserlohn builds a new factory for brass.

Thimbles in a water mill in Sundwig. **As of 1700:** The Dutchman J. Lofting produces thimbles in London with help of a machine; this is the beginning of the thimble industry. **As of 1710:** big productions in the Rhineland, Sundwig and Iserlohn.

As of 1756: the Swedish try to reveal the secret of thimble manufacturing by spying. **As of 1763:** also in Austria the fabrication succeeded after empress Maria Theresia enticed away thimble foremen from Nürnberg and smuggled them out of town in a straw wagon. **1824** the silver smith J.F. Gabler from Schorndorf showed his thimbles to the publicity. This was the basis for the biggest production worldwide.



Together with two other companies, Soergel & Stollmeyer from Schwäbisch Gmünd and Lotthammer from Pforzheim, South Germany formerly built the hub of the world in the field of thimble production. Other centres of manufacturing were France, England and America.



1963 The Gabler company was sold to Helmut Greif from Winterbach, who did up the fabrication, which burned completely in the end.